

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010334

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.C1⁷ C09B69/04, 23/00, 45/14, 45/20, C09K3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.C1⁷ C09B69/04, 23/00, 45/14, 45/20, C09K3/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
REGISTRY (STN), CAPLUS (STN)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 98/34988 A1 (TDK Corp.), 13 August, 1998 (13.08.98), Full text & US 6071672 A & EP 905202 A1	1, 2
A	JP 10-310715 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 24 November, 1998 (24.11.98), Claim 2 (Family: none)	1, 2

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
14 September, 2004 (14.09.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
12 October, 2004 (12.10.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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<Subject of search>

The invention of claim 2 is specified by the property of "substantially not decomposable even under exposure to, at 780 nm wavelength, 5 mW/cm² laser for 200 hr". However, this property is not one commonly employed in the art to which the invention pertains, so that the scope of particular cyanine dyes specified by that property is ambiguous even if the technical common knowledge at the time of filing of this application is taken into account. Consequently, claim 2 cannot be stated as being clearly described within the meaning of PCT Article 6.

Further, claims 1 and 2 cover a vast plurality of compounds. However, only some of the claimed compounds are disclosed within the meaning of PCT Article 5, and within the meaning of PCT Article 6, claims 1 and 2 are not fully supported.

Therefore, the search has been conducted only on the portion supported by and disclosed in the description, namely, "cyanine dyes comprising a compound of the general formula 2 or 3 and an organometallic complex".